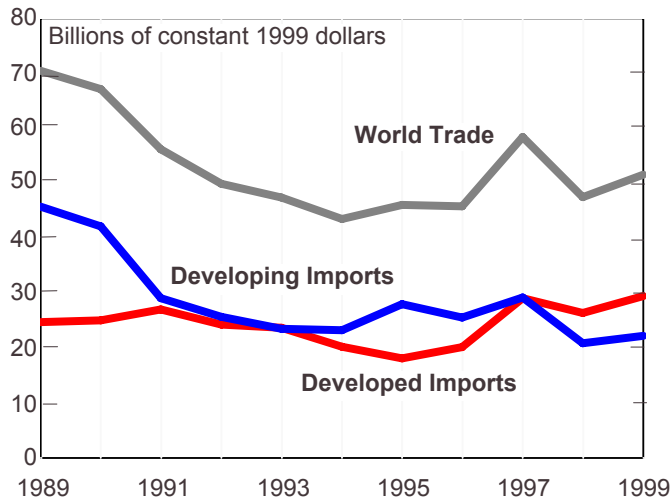


# BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS

## World Arms Imports, 1989-1999



- **The world arms trade rose to \$51.6 billion in 1999**, an 8.5% rise after a surge in 1997 and a nearly matching 1998 decline during the Asian financial crisis. The trade's erratic path since the post-cold-war low in 1994 averaged a moderate 3% annual real growth. In 1999, arms imports and exports (equal at the world level) were 12 % below the recent 1997 peak, 19 % above the 1994 low, and 40% below the all-time 1987 high.

Level of Imports	Year	Billion	
		1999 \$	Index
Most recent	1999	51.6	59.5
Post-cold-war peak	1997	58.4	67.4
Post-cold-war low	1994	43.5	50.2
All-time peak	1987	86.7	100.0

### Arms Imports: Shares and Growth (in percent)

	World Share		Real Growth Rate*	
	1989	1999	Decade 89-99	2nd Half 95-99
<b>World</b>	100.0	100.0	-2.7	2.6
Developed	35.0	57.0	0.6	13.2
Developing	65.0	43.0	-5.5	-6.4
<b>Region</b>				
Western Europe	16.9	29.2	-1.7	12.1
Middle East	31.2	26.2	-3.3	-6.7
East Asia	12.2	22.6	5.4	5.1
North America	3.9	5.4	-3.1	16.9
South Asia	13.4	3.5	-16.7	8.8
Oceania	2.4	3.3	1.4	3.9
Eastern Europe	5.8	2.3	-2.5	7.0
South America	2.0	1.6	0.1	-12.8
North Africa	3.4	1.4	-7.5	14.3
Southern Africa	2.8	1.1	-12.3	7.2
Central Africa	2.7	1.1	-9.9	28.4
Central Asia & Cauc.	—	.4	—	-31.2
Central Amer. & Car.	3.1	.1	-31.2	-26.7
Europe, all	22.7	31.5	-2.8	11.6
Africa, all	8.8	3.6	-9.8	15.4

### Organization / Reference Group

OECD	25.2	43.6	-0.9	11.4
NATO, all	18.9	30.8	-2.5	14.1
NATO Europe	15.2	25.7	-2.5	13.4
OPEC	25.7	21.3	-3.0	-7.5
Latin America	5.4	2.0	-9.2	-12.1
CIS	—	1.3	—	-7.5

\* Average annual; a compound rate curve fitted to all points.

- **The developed countries have been the main recipients of the recent increase in global arms transfers**, with their imports rising by an average annual 13% since the 1995 low. Over the entire post-cold-war period since 1991, both the developed and developing groups have imported roughly the same cumulative volume of arms and experienced similar declining annual rates of -1 to -2%. However, in the last two years the developed group has taken the lead in imports.

- **Developing country imports, in contrast, dropped by an average annual -13% since 1997**, by -6% since 1995, and by -2% since 1991. The traditional predominance of developing countries' arms imports ended with their precipitous drop after the cold war.

- **The two groups' relative shares of total world arms imports have nearly been reversed over the decade (in percent):**

	1989	1994	1999
Developed	35	47	57
Developing	65	53	43

• **Arms imports of the top 5 regions over the decade are as follows** (in billions of 1999 dollars):

	Middle East	East Asia	West Europe	North Amer.	South Asia
1989	22.0	8.6	11.9	2.8	9.4
1990	22.3	8.4	12.6	2.7	7.9
1991	18.1	8.5	14.8	2.8	4.2
1992	18.8	8.3	13.4	3.2	1.5
1993	17.5	7.5	10.7	2.2	1.2
1994	15.5	9.1	9.4	2.0	0.8
1995	18.2	9.8	8.2	1.4	1.4
1996	17.1	10.3	10.2	1.7	0.8
1997	20.3	17.2	10.3	2.1	1.4
1998	15.4	12.3	9.5	2.2	1.2
1999	13.5	11.4	15.1	2.8	1.8

• **In the 1997-1999 period, the top regions' cumulative arms imports were** (in billions of current dollars):

Middle East	48.5
East Asia	40.4
West Europe	34.1
North America	7.1
South Asia	4.4

• **In 1999, the top three regions — Western Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia — imported 78% of the world total.** The addition of North America as the fourth raised the share to 83%. In 1989, the same top three made up 60%, and the top four (with South Asia), 74%, indicating that the concentration of imports in the top regions has increased.

• **Western Europe became the principal arms importing region in 1999**, overtaking the Middle East, the traditional leader. The region's average growth since the post-cold-war low in 1995 has been 12% a year, with a 59% jump in 1999 alone.

• **The main Western European importers in 1997-1999 were** (in billions of current dollars):

United Kingdom	6.6	Spain	1.8
Turkey	6.2	Italy	1.7
Greece	3.7	France	1.3
Germany	2.7	Finland	1.2
Netherlands	2.3	Norway	1.2
Switzerland	1.9	Sweden	1.0

• **Middle East arms imports fell at a -20% rate after peaking in 1997 to a decade low in 1999**, although the average rate of decline was only -3% over the entire decade. Saudi Arabia, with 57% of the region's imports in 1997-1999, accounted for most of the decline in the recent period, together with Kuwait. Israel, with 12% of regional imports in 1997-1999, reached a new decade high in 1999, after a steep drop in 1995 and a rapid 30% annual growth since. Over the entire decade, Israel had a nearly flat -1% average rate.

• **The main Middle Eastern arms importers in 1997-1999 were** (in billions of current dollars):

Saudi Arabia	27.5	Kuwait	3.2
Israel	5.8	Qatar	1.7
Un.Arab Emir.	3.7	Iran	1.4
Egypt	3.2		

• **East Asia, the third largest arms importing region, grew at an average annual rate of 6% from 1989 to a sharp peak in 1997, then fell at a -20% rate through 1999.**

• **The main East Asian arms importers in 1997-1999 were** (in billions of current dollars):

China-Taiwan	17.4	Malaysia	1.9
Japan	7.9	China-Mnlnd	1.8
South Korea	5.3	Thailand	1.4
Singapore	2.1	Indonesia	1.2

- **China-Taiwan ranked second and Japan third among world importers in that period.**

- **South Asia, the third largest importing region in 1989 and only fifth in 1999, had arms imports dropping at a very rapid -55% average annual rate from 1989 to a 1994 low, and at -17% for the entire decade.**

- **South Asia's main importers in 1997-1999 were Pakistan (\$2.1 billion) and India (\$1.9 billion).**

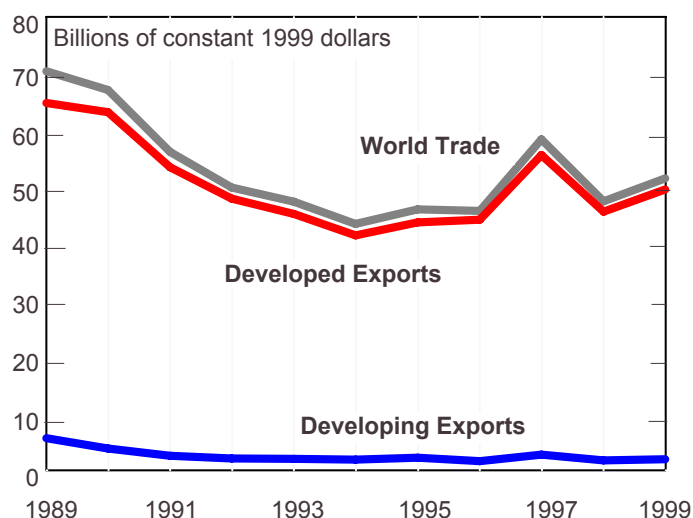
- **North America, which became the fourth largest importing region in 1992, had arms imports growing at a 17% annual rate from a 1995 low to a 1999 level matching that of 1989, with an overall declining average rate of -3%.**

- **The United States ranked a surprisingly high eighth in 1997-1999 arms imports with \$5.1 billion. Canada had \$1.7 billion in that period.**

- **From the perspective of the world as a whole, the top 15 arms importers are shown below ranked for 1999 alone and for the 1997-1999 period (in billions of current dollars).**

Top Importers, 1999			Top Importers, 1997-1999		
1	Saudi Arabia	7.7	Saudi Arabia	27.5	
2	Turkey	3.2	China-Taiwan	17.4	
3	Japan	3.0	Japan	7.9	
4	China-Taiwan	2.6	United Kingdom	6.6	
5	United Kingdom	2.6	Turkey	6.2	
6	Israel	2.4	Israel	5.8	
7	South Korea	2.2	South Korea	5.3	
8	Greece	1.9	United States	5.1	
9	United States	1.6	Australia	4.0	
10	Germany	1.3	United Arab Emir.	3.7	
11	Australia	1.1	Greece	3.7	
12	Switzerland	1.1	Egypt	3.2	
13	Canada	1.0	Kuwait	3.2	
14	Pakistan	1.0	Germany	2.7	
15	Singapore	0.9	Netherlands	2.3	

## World Arms Exports, 1989-1999



- **World arms exports** (which equal world arms imports) **turned back up in 1999 to \$51.6 billion**, after a spike in 1997 and a downturn in 1998 influenced by the financial crisis. Since the post-cold-war low in 1994, the rising trend averaged 2.6%.a year.

- **The 1999 level of world exports was 8.5% (\$8.1 billion) higher than the post cold-war low in 1994**, but 27% (\$18.9 billion) below the decade high in 1989 and 40% (\$35.1 billion) below the all-time peak in 1987.

- **Developed nations overwhelmingly dominate the world arms market, accounting for 96% of total exports in 1999**, compared to a 92% share a decade earlier. Because of their hold on the market, their arms export trends nearly mirror world trends.

- **Developed nations' arms exports in 1999 declined 11% (\$6.1 billion) since 1997**, were 24% (\$15.3 billion) lower than a decade earlier, and were 36% (\$27.9 billion) below the all-time peak in 1987. They were still, however, 20% (\$8.1 billion) higher than when the ten-year low was set in 1994.

- **The developing world had a more pronounced relative decline in arms exports**, which fell 29% from 1997 to 1999 and 65% from 1989. In 1989 developing countries accounted for 8% of the world arms exports but by 1999, only 4%.

- **The U.S. alone accounted for 64% (\$33 billion) of total world arms exports in 1999**. This was a record level, not only for the past decade but for all time, and amounted to a 52% increase over the 1989 level. In the 1997-1999 period, the US share of the world market was 59%.

**Arms Exports: Shares and Growth** (in percent)

	World Share		Real Growth Rate*	
	1989	1999	Decade 89-99	2nd Half 95-99
<b>World</b>	100.0	100.0	-2.7	2.6
Developed	92.0	96.2	-2.4	2.9
Developing	8.1	3.8	-7.6	-6.4
<b>Region</b>				
North America	31.8	65.1	-3.1	7.3
Western Europe	19.1	22.5	.0	-3.1
Eastern Europe	39.0	8.5	-15.0	5.0
East Asia	6.4	1.3	-14.8	5.1
Middle East	2.6	1.2	-3.3	16.1
Oceania	.1	1.1	16.8	-12.7
Central Asia & Cauc.	—	.1	(11.3)	-25.2
South America	.6	.1	-25.7	-9.0
Southern Africa	.4	.1	-3.6	-33.9
North Africa	.1	.1	-8.9	200.0
South Asia	.1	.0	-14.3	-5.8
Central Africa	.1	.0	-1.6	---
Central Amer. & Car.	.0	.0	29.9	---
Europe, all	58.0	31.0	-6.2	-3.1
Africa, all	.5	.2	1.8	-19.2
<b>Organization / Reference Group</b>				
OECD	51.3	88.8	1.2	4.2
NATO, all	48.9	86.0	.9	5.1
NATO Europe	17.1	21.0	.2	-2.5
CIS	—	7.8	(2.8)	-4.0
OPEC	.3	.3	3.0	-20.4
Latin America	.6	.1	-19.7	-9.7

\* Average annual; a compound rate curve fitted to all points.

- **Over 70% of U.S. deliveries were made to developed nations in 1999.** Western Europe was the largest importing region for U.S. arms, receiving 38%, East Asia was the second largest, with 27%, and the Middle East, third, with 21%.

- **In 1997-1999, the main recipients of US arms exports were** (in billions of current dollars):

Saudi Arabia	14.1	Germany	2.3
China - Taiwan	10.0	Singapore	1.9
Japan	7.9	Netherlands	1.7
United Kingdom	6.6	Canada	1.6
Turkey	4.9	Switzerland	1.5
Israel	4.9	Spain	1.4
South Korea	4.2	Italy	1.4
Egypt	2.8	France	1.2
Greece	2.4	Finland	1.1
Kuwait	2.3		

- **North America (essentially the U.S. and Canada) accounted for 65% of world arms exports in 1999, and 60% in 1997-1999.**

- **Western Europe was the second largest arms exporting region in 1999, accounting for 23% of the world total.** The United Kingdom, France, and Germany accounted for 10%, 6%, and 4% of total world arms exports respectively.

- **Over 80% of UK and French arms exports went to developing countries,** with the Middle East being the largest recipient. In contrast, **almost 80% of German deliveries went to developed nations,** mainly in Western Europe.

- **Eastern Europe came in a distant third region, with 8.5% of the world's arms exports in 1999,** edging up from its all time low of 6% in 1994. This was a dramatic decline from a decade earlier, when the region accounted for 39%, and the Soviet Union alone had 35%.

- **Russia, the region's primary arms exporter and trend-setter, has attempted to recoup some of the market.** In 1999, Russian exports accounted for 6% of total world (compared to the 4% low in 1994) and 71% of total East European arms exports. East and South Asia received almost half of Russian arms exports, followed by Africa, the Middle East, and Western Europe. **Ukraine** accounted for 1% of total world arms exports.

- **East Asia, the Middle East, and Oceania each captured approximately 1% of the world arms export market.** All other regions' arms exports were significantly less.

- **The world's top 15 individual arms exporters are shown below ranked for 1999 alone and for the 1997-1999 period** (in billions of current dollars).

	Top Exporters, 1999		Top Exporters, 1997-1999	
1	United States	33.0	United States	91.5
2	Untd Kngdm	5.2	Untd Kngdm	15.7
3	Russia	3.1	France	15.7
4	France	2.9	Russia	7.9
5	Germany	1.9	Germany	4.5
6	Sweden	0.7	Sweden	2.9
7	Israel	0.6	China - Mnlnd	2.0
8	Australia	0.6	Canada	1.6
9	Canada	0.6	Israel	1.6
10	Ukraine	0.6	Ukraine	1.5
11	Italy	0.4	Italy	1.3
12	China - Mnlnd	0.3	Australia	1.1
13	Belarus	0.3	Netherlands	1.1
14	Bulgaria	0.2	Belarus	0.9
15	North Korea	0.1	Spain	0.8

- **It is noteworthy that the US and several allied countries can no longer be characterized as being mainly arms exporters or arms importers, since recently they rank high in both arms trade categories.** These countries

and their ranks as arms exporters and arms importers in the cumulative 1997-1999 period are as follows:

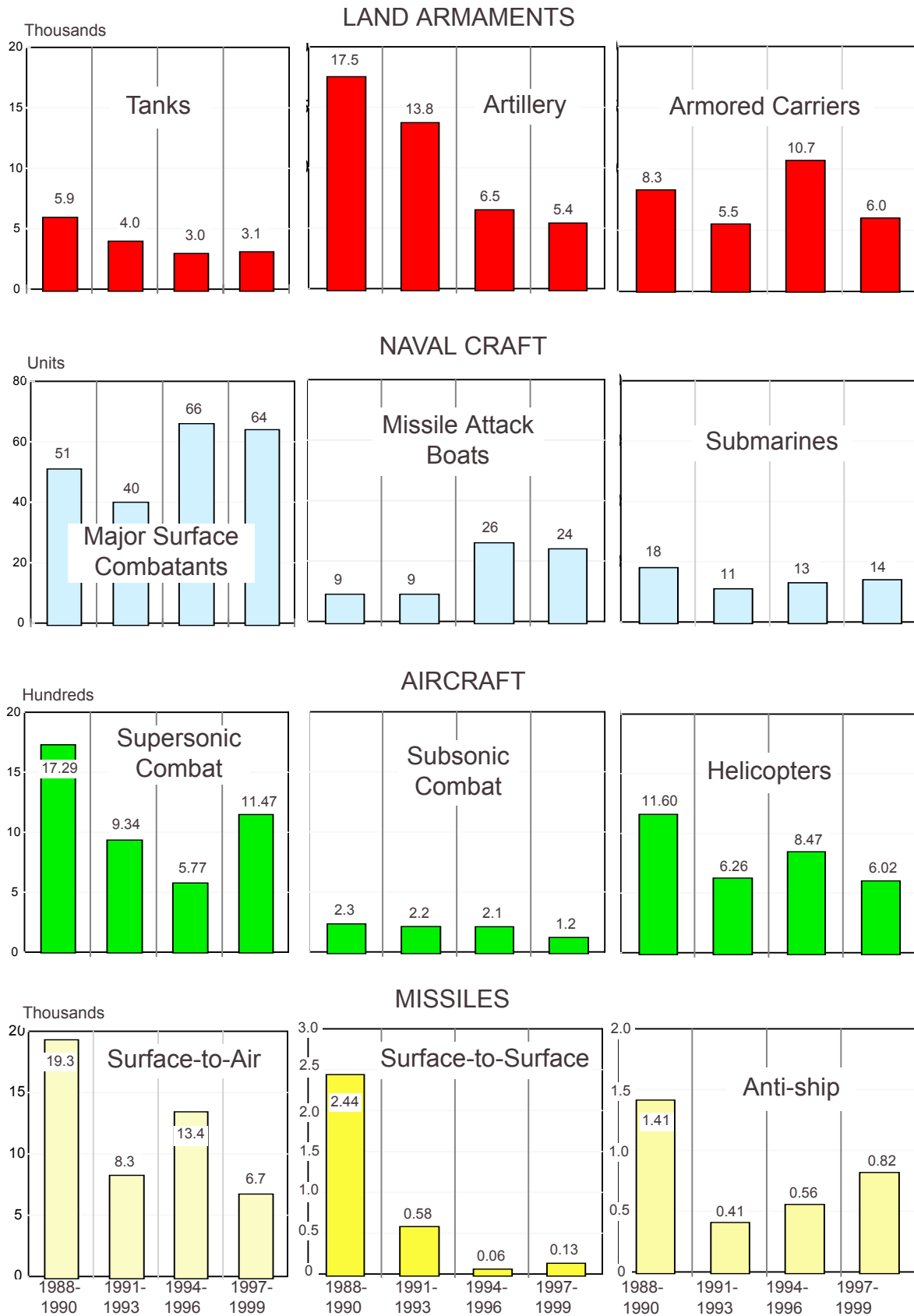
	1997-1999 Rank As:	
	Exporter	Importer
United States	1	8
United Kingdom	2	4
Germany	5	14
Israel	9	6
Australia	12	9
Netherlands	13	15

• **This may indicate a tendency toward greater collaboration and interdependence in arms production.** Over half of US arms imports in the period came from the other five countries on the list, while most of their arms imports came from the US — in the case of the UK, Israel, Germany, and the Netherlands, over 75%.

• **The US is likely to continue its dominance of the arms market in the near future**, as its share of export agreements signed in 1997-1999 was 69%. Other future top exporters, judging by their shares of total world agreements in that period, were Russia, Germany, France, UK, China, and Sweden, with 5.4, 5.3, 4.9, 2.9, 2.5, and 1.7%, respectively.

• **Many large importers trade heavily with the US.** Of the 43 countries with over \$500 million in arms imports in 1997-1999, 23 obtained two-thirds or more of their imports from the US. This deep reliance on the US is another indication of its importance as a supplier.

# WORLD DELIVERIES OF MAJOR WEAPONS (In numbers)



## World Deliveries of Major Weapons, 1988-1999

• Besides dollar value measures of the broadly-defined arms trade discussed above, WMEAT reports on the actual deliveries in units of major weapons, by category and type, supplier countries or regions, recipient regions, and three-year period from 1988 to 1999 (Main Table V). Numbers of major weapons in world trade by three-year period are charted on the previous page and summarized as follows (in units).

	1988-90	91-93	94-96	97-99
<i>LAND ARMAMENTS</i>	<i>31,761</i>	<i>23,258</i>	<i>20,173</i>	<i>14,506</i>
Tanks	5,948	3,967	2,958	3,100
Artil., Field & Anti-Air	17,530	13,782	6,527	5,419
Armored Pers. Carriers	8,283	5,509	10,688	5,987
<i>NAVAL CRAFT</i>	<i>424</i>	<i>312</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>364</i>
Major Surface Combat.	51	40	66	64
Other Surface Combat.	346	252	395	262
Missile Attack Boats	9	9	26	24
Submarines	18	11	13	14
<i>AIRCRAFT</i>	<i>5,537</i>	<i>3,040</i>	<i>2,479</i>	<i>2,459</i>
Combat, Supersonic	1,729	934	577	1,147
Combat, Subsonic	234	212	210	120
Other Aircraft	2,414	1,268	845	590
Helicopters	1,160	626	847	602
<i>MISSILES</i>	<i>23,165</i>	<i>9,240</i>	<i>14,042</i>	<i>7,667</i>
Surface-to-Air	19,312	8,253	13,426	6,717
Surface-to-Surface	2,440	580	60	132
Anti-Ship	1,413	407	556	818
<i>TOTAL, ALL TYPES</i>	<i>60,887</i>	<i>35,850</i>	<i>37,194</i>	<i>24,996</i>

• **There was a general decline in the total number of major weapons deliveries after the end of the cold war-- that is, after 1988-1990: by 41% to 1991-1993 and by 59% to 1997-1999. In subsequent deliveries, no clear-cut trend and common trend is evident.** Most types continued to decline, but some, such as armored personnel carriers, major naval surface combatants, other surface combatants, and missile attack boats actually peaked in 1994-1996. Supersonic aircraft deliveries also rose sharply in the last period, nearly doubling .

• **A comparison of two gross measures**—the total world arms trade broadly defined and measured in dollars, as discussed above, and the total of major weapon quantities shown here—**reveals a divergence in the last period, when the broad dollar volume rose while the number of major weapons of all types fell substantially.**

	Indexes of World Arms Trade	
	Dollar Value of All Arms*	Total Number of Major Weapons
1988-90	100	100
1991-93	70	59
1994-96	62	61
1997-99	72	41

\* *In constant dollars, total for the period.*

• **The divergence suggests that the arms trade of the 1997-1999 period placed less emphasis on major weapons and more on other hardware aspects, such as parts and upgrades, and repair, manufacturing and technical assistance, and other military services .** Earlier periods showed roughly similar trends in the two measures.

• **(It should be cautioned that a simple quantity measure such as the overall number of major weapons obscures much variability,** not only between the broad weapon types, but also within each type, between suppliers and/or recipients, and over time. Variations in such factors as size, complexity, and military effectiveness naturally affect value. The weapons count becomes more meaningful as a measure the narrower and more constant the composition by type.)

• **In the last two periods covered in Table V, that is in 1994-1999, the main suppliers of most types of major weapons have been the United States and Russia, with France in third place, as the following table shows.**

**Major Weapons Delivered, by Supplier and Type, 1994-1999  
And by Supplier, 1988-1999**

Major Weapon Type	Total	United States	Russia	France	Germany	China	United Kingdom	Other East Europe	Other NATO	Other West Europe	Middle East	Other East Asia	Others
	In Units	In Percent (Total=100)											
	1994-1999												
LAND ARMAMENTS	34,679	34	22	3	8	3	3	11	10	1	2	1	4
Tanks	6,058	31	12	6	8	6	1	28	5	1	1	1	1
Artillery, Field & Anti-Air	11,946	35	35	2	4	3	2	4	1	1	4	1	8
Armored Pers. Carriers	16,675	35	16	3	11	1	4	9	18	2	—	1	1
NAVAL CRAFT	864	12	20	5	10	6	5	3	14	6	11	3	4
Major Surface Combat.	130	26	5	5	25	3	16	—	18	—	2	1	—
Other Surface Combat.	657	11	24	4	4	4	3	4	15	8	14	3	6
Missile Attack Boats	50	—	—	8	28	42	8	4	—	—	4	4	2
Submarines	27	—	33	7	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
AIRCRAFT	4,938	33	16	7	3	4	4	10	6	2	6	1	7
Combat, Supersonic	1,724	51	13	6	2	7	2	5	2	—	5	2	4
Combat, Subsonic	330	39	6	—	—	—	40	6	3	—	3	—	3
Other Aircraft	1,435	11	6	8	3	6	—	16	10	8	15	2	14
Helicopters	1,449	30	31	10	3	1	3	10	6	—	—	—	6
MISSILES	21,709	16	18	34	0	6	2	18	1	4	1	—	1
Surface-to-Air	20,143	14	19	35	0	5	2	20	1	3	1	—	1
Surface-to-Surface	192	32	—	36	0	—	16	—	—	—	—	16	—
Anti-Ship	1,374	45	5	15	0	23	1	—	1	10	1	—	—
TOTAL, ALL TYPES	62,190	27	20	14	5	4	3	13	6	2	2	1	3
ALL TYPES BY PERIOD, 1988-1999													
1988-1990	60,887	8	37	24	1	6	1	10	1	4	2	4	2
1991-1993	35,850	12	15	35	7	6	1	7	7	2	3	2	2
1994-1996	37,194	22	23	16	6	2	3	14	7	1	2	—	1
1997-1999	24,996	35	14	11	3	6	2	12	5	4	1	1	5
1988-1999	158,927	16	25	23	4	5	2	11	5	3	2	2	2

• **The US has replaced the Soviet Union and Russia as the dominant world supplier of all major weapons**, as shown above by changes in their shares of the total units of all types delivered over the last 12 years. The US share rose from 8% in 1988-1990 to 35% in 1997-1999, while the Soviet/Russian share fell from 37% to a still substantial 14%.

• **However, Russia was still the leader in total major weapons through the 1994-1996 period, after which it relinquished the lead.** France was the leader in 1991-1993 with 35%, second or third in the other three sub-periods, and first in the three 1991-1999 periods combined.

• **Eastern European countries continue to be important suppliers**, with over 10% of the major weapon market in three of the four sub-periods, including the last.

• **The US and Russia have been prominent suppliers in nearly all of types of major weapons**, reflecting their historic output capabilities. In the 1994-1999 span, the US dominated in the export of aircraft and accounted for one third of world deliveries, nearly twice as many as Russia, the next largest supplier. This was especially true for supersonic aircraft, with the US exporting over half of the world total, three times as many as Russia, the second largest supplier.

## Major Weapons Delivered, by Recipient Region and Type, 1994-1999

### And by Recipient Region, 1988-1999

Major Weapon Type	Total	Middle East	West. Euro.	East Asia	South. Africa	South Amer.	South Asia	East. Euro.	Central Asia	Central Africa	North Africa	North Amer.	Oceania	Centr. Amer.
	In Units	In Percent (Total=100)												
1994-1999														
LAND ARMAMENTS	34,679	39	16	12	10	3	4	7	1	3	3	2	—	—
Tanks	6,058	36	10	12	6	4	8	6	4	10	2	—	—	—
Artil., Field & Anti-Air	11,946	31	11	21	19	3	4	7	1	2	1	1	—	—
Armored Pers. Carr.	16,675	46	21	5	5	3	2	7	—	1	5	3	1	—
NAVAL CRAFT	864	35	12	17	—	1	7	2	2	4	2	1	1	4
Major Surface Com.	130	8	18	43	—	1	12	1	—	—	1	2	2	—
Other Surface Com.	657	39	11	11	—	2	6	3	2	5	2	—	1	5
Missile Attack Boats	50	54	12	12	—	16	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—
Submarines	27	15	15	48	—	4	11	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
AIRCRAFT	4,938	16	17	26	5	11	7	4	2	3	4	1	1	1
Combat, Supersonic	1,724	13	25	37	3	6	9	2	2	1	2	—	1	—
Combat, Subsonic	330	18	2	33	3	34	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	3
Other Aircraft	1,435	17	17	25	6	7	9	4	3	2	4	1	—	1
Helicopters	1,449	18	12	14	6	16	5	8	1	5	6	4	2	—
MISSILES	21,709	12	26	20	9	15	7	1	6	1	—	2	1	—
Surface-to-Air	20,143	11	26	19	10	16	7	1	6	1	—	2	1	—
Surface-to-Surface	192	26	27	—	—	36	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Anti-Ship	1,374	22	25	35	—	3	7	—	—	—	7	1	1	—
TOTAL, ALL TYPES	62,190	27	19	14	9	8	5	4	3	2	2	2	1	—
ALL TYPES BY PERIOD, 1988-1999														
1988-1990	60,887	23	30	6	2	1	25	5	—	4	2	—	—	2
1991-1993	35,850	47	19	9	1	2	11	1	—	4	1	1	—	1
1994-1996	37,194	28	22	9	13	8	6	4	4	1	2	2	1	—
1997-1999	24,996	26	16	26	4	8	4	6	2	4	2	1	—	—
1988-1999	158,927	30	24	10	5	4	14	4	1	3	2	1	—	1

Russia was the main supplier of naval craft in the 1994-1999 period, with Germany, second and the US, third.

• **In the case of other suppliers, specialization tendencies are evident in the table:** France, in missiles and helicopters; Germany, in armored personnel carriers, submarines and other naval craft; China, in missile attack boats and anti-ship missiles; the UK, in major surface combatants, subsonic combat aircraft, and anti-ship missiles; Eastern European countries, in tanks and other aircraft; other NATO countries, in armored personnel carriers and naval surface combatants, etc.

• **The Middle East and Western Europe have consistently been the primary importing regions for major weapons over the four three-year periods from 1988 to 1999**, as the above table shows. The Middle East was the leading importing region from 1991-1993, when it had nearly half of the world's deliveries, through 1997-1999, when it's share was one quarter. West Europe led in 1988-1990 with nearly one-third, but cut its share by half to 16% by 1997-1999.

• **In the last two periods (1994-1999), both regions imported strongly in all four major**

**categories of weapons**, with emphasis by the Middle East on land and naval weapons, and by Western Europe, on missiles and aircraft.

- **East Asia, the third largest importing region over the entire period, raised its share sharply in 1997-1999 to about one quarter of the world total, to become regional co-leader with the Middle East.** In 1994-1999, the region accounted for over one third of world imports of large naval surface combatants, submarines, supersonic and subsonic aircraft, and anti-ship missiles.

- **South Asia was the third largest importing region over the entire 12-year period, but reduced its share from a quarter in 1988-1990 to only 4% in 1997-1999.**

- **Sizable world import shares were held by Southern Africa (13% in 1994-1996) and South America (8% in 1994-1999).** Southern African countries imported primarily artillery and surface-to-air missiles, and South American, subsonic aircraft and helicopters, missile attack boats, and surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles.